



# TELEGRAPH HILL SEMAPHORE

*Publication of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers*

NUMBER FIFTY ONE

OCTOBER 1973

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## A WORD FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:

Dear Members:

As president of the THD I wish to welcome the many new members who have joined our organization and hope that you will become active participants in our affairs. Since taking office in April your president and directors have supported the Ad Hoc Committee "Citizens for Responsible City Development" in their lawsuit against Phase III of the Golden Gateway. A contribution of \$1000 from the THD legal fund started the ball rolling and the momentum is being maintained with an excellent chance of success. We have defined our position with respect to developments affecting the Hill - strict compliance with existing zoning, master plan and EIR requirements. We have canvassed the property owners on the Hill in a successful membership drive engineered by our membership chairman, Dave Broadbear.

In August, first in the fog, and later in beautiful sunshine, we had a Sunday picnic outing on Angel Island, which was a great success.

A proposal by the North East Mental Health Service, Inc. to establish a night-counseling center at 1400 Grant was discussed at great length pro and con. A move to endorse the facility failed by a 7 to 5 vote of the directors. By a vote of 8 to 5, the directors supported a subsequent motion to oppose the location of the facility. The question has come before the Health and Environmental Committee of the Supervisors, which has appointed a Citizens Committee to study the issue. The Board of N.E. has referred the matter back to its Program Committee, so the issue is still pretty much up in the air.

At our last directors' meeting before the October dinner meeting it was decided to schedule our general membership meetings which will be held, starting in November, every other month at mid month - time and place to be announced. We will alternate (more or less) dinner meetings with primarily social emphasis, and business meetings with a primarily business emphasis. Hopefully, scheduling will make it easier for members to become involved and also easier to bring up issues as they arise. Your directors will meet on a mid-month schedule between general membership meetings. Please contact your president if you wish to attend or add anything to the agenda (telephone 775-4600 Bus. Res. 421-0274).

Future plans to reorganize our committee system and membership questionnaire are still in the hopper. What we hope to accomplish is to build a strong organization with an informed and actively participating membership. Sooner or later we will call on you to serve on a committee. Many thanks to those who have served the THD so far.

Sincerely,  
John W. Holmes

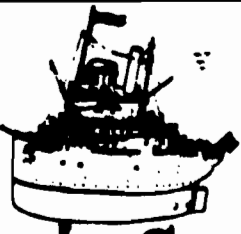
For those of you who like to prolong the meetings verbosely, a friendly reminder that "brevity is the soul of wit"

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### HELP YOUR LOCAL POLICE SOLVE A MURDER !

ATTENTION THD Residents on Chestnut between Stockton and Powell. If you saw on Saturday, October 20, between 9 and 10 p.m. 3 neat-appearing Negro males, ages 25-30, wearing dark clothes and drivin a white or tan van- possibly a Ford or Dodge, phone Toschi, Homicide Detail 553-1145.

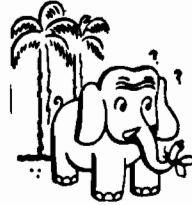
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TURN BACK THE FREEWAY TIDE?-----

State and Federal officials recently expressed their willingness to contribute financially to the elimination of the Embarcadero Freeway and to consider non-structural alternatives.


Based on these promises, the BCDC Advisory Committee, on August 20th, unanimously approved a resolution submitted by Supervisor Feinstein. This resolution opposed the extension of Freeway 280 beyond 4th Street, asked for the elimination of the elevated Embarcadero Freeway and demanded the deletion of Freeway 480 (between the Bridges) from the State Highway Plan. The resolution called for a short-term study that includes "dominantly non-structural alternatives which do not increase automobile traffic and which include an innovative use of surface streets, public transit, peripheral parking . . . and any other means to handle and/or reduce private automobile traffic."

On October 1st, Supervisor Feinstein introduced a similar resolution at the Board of Supervisors, including the rescinding of all previous approvals of underground freeways.

-----OR A NEW FREEWAY ALL THE WAY TO SACRAMENTO?

Meanwhile Mayor-Candidate Alioto went to Washington to ask Federal support for the same old Freeway 480 between the Bridges. He dangled the elimination of the Embarcadero Freeway as a carrot, but his "plan" is nothing but the old Chamber of Commerce proposal which was so universally opposed that it didn't even get out of the Supervisors' Streets & Transportation Committee.

No wonder that the State Department of Transportation is feverishly pushing its scheme to widen Doyle Drive to an 8-lane freeway standard.



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IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR RECREATION & OPEN SPACE FLUNKS ITS  
FIRST TEST.

This plan was adopted 3 months ago by the Planning Commission. On October 4th, the Commission had its first opportunity to live up to its promise - and refused to do so.


At issue were the blocks along Bay Street that now serve as the location for the Sewage Treatment buildings. These operations will be phased out over the next 10-12 years. The land is zoned C-2. Anne Halsted, a THD member, conducted a thorough survey and petitioned to change the zoning to "P" (Public Use District), for the following reasons: To preserve or create open space if and when the Sewage Plant is phased out; to provide needed recreational land without incurring further land acquisition costs to the City; to prevent further increases in population density in the waterfront area which is at present being heavily developed on Port land.

The new OPEN SPACE PLAN states that when public agencies find land surplus to their needs, the "Plan gives priority to direct uses that meet either immediate or long term public needs. One of those uses is recreation and open space."

The "P" zoning was supported by Planning Director Allen Jacobs by virtually all property owners surrounding the site, by the THD, SPUR, Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club, the President of San Francisco Tomorrow and major developers along the waterfront. Gerson Bakar appeared in person to support the zoning change, as did a representative of Supervisor Molinari. But Mr. Levy of Public Works and Mr. Worthman, Director of Properties, strongly objected. They were joined by Commissioners Mellon, Farrell, and Fleishhacker. Commissioners Ritchie and Rueda were absent. Mrs. Porter and Mr. Newman voted for the rezoning.

The proponents of the rezoning will appeal to the Supervisors. Anne Halsted needs all the help she can get. Please contact her at 398-5077(r), or 445-7603(b).

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GOLDEN GATEWAY SUIT

The Citizens Group suing to require that Phase III of the Golden Gateway submit a meaningful Environmental Impact Report has asked the California Public Interest Law Center to represent the group in Federal Court.

Two attorneys from the Law Center, Marc Allen and Dennis Woodruff, addressed our October dinner meeting and described how the Federal Courts have expanded the applicability of the National Environmental Protection Act in recent months, and gave a very encouraging report on the chances for a successful suit.

On the attorneys' advice the lawsuit in State Court has been dropped. In their opinion, the case would have to be carried to the State Supreme Court and chances of sustaining their position were not sufficiently strong to warrant a long legal battle.

Contributions to the Citizens' For Responsible City Development's Federal Lawsuit Fund are desperately needed. Such contributions are tax-deductible. Checks should be made payable to "California Public Interest Law Center". Send your contribution to Anna Quillen, Treasurer CRCD, 273 Green Street, San Francisco 94133.

NOTE: The Committee is badly in need of someone to serve as recording secretary at its meetings. Volunteers please phone Anna Quillen at 981-2244

LIGHT POLLUTION AND THE ENERGY CRISIS

Among Telegraph Hill's greatest assets are our unique views. Many of us thought that these views were protected by the 40-foot height limit on the Hill and the waterfront. Now a new danger is emerging: light pollution.

Until recently, views at night were spectacular: the darkness of the waters and skies, bridge lights in the distance, occasional light accents here and there - and on clear nights the stars and the moon.

Enter the Blue Shield Building on Bay Street, a massive box-like structure of moderate height. In the daytime it does not intrude. But when night falls, the entire building is ablaze with light, and it stays lit all evening and all night, despoiling a once beautiful view. A THD complaint led to the following "agreement" between the developer and California Physicians' Service: Lights will be extinguished after janitorial services complete their work at Midnight or 1 AM! In other words, the lights will stay on while we are awake and will be extinguished when we are asleep!

With headlines of "ENERGY CRISIS" screaming at us from every newspaper headline, building managers are ill advised in keeping their buildings ablaze with light while ordinary citizens are asked to curtail their use of electricity.

Port-owned lands all around the Hill are presently being developed on a massive scale. If the present lighting trend continues, our views and property values will be severely affected.


Send protest postcards to the following organizations:

Mr. David N. Hicks, California Physicians' Service, 1 Beach Street, San Francisco, California;

Gerson Bakar & Associates, 2280 Powell Street, San Francisco, California 94133;

Public Utilities Commission, City Hall, San Francisco, California 94102.

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Dear Telegraph Hill Dwellers,

We wish to thank you for your enthusiastic response and welcome to our new interior design studio.

Designs for Living, located at 420 Union Street, has been established with two specific purposes. We have created the studio to help busy hill dwellers find distinctive home furnishings. We have also gathered gift items from many parts of the globe and we promise you a varied selection of gifts galore! \*(Some of these items are exclusive to us in San Francisco.)

The designer-in-residence of the studio is Edwin Smalle a member of the N.S.I.D., who has a distinguished career in the Bay Area as an interior decorator.

Know that you are welcome to come and browse from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Evening and Saturday appointments gladly arranged.

Cordially,

Ann Zaccaria

Gift prices from \$1:50 to \$150.00

**SAFETY IN OUR HOMES AND ON OUR STREETS v. NON-VICTIM CRIMES:  
A QUESTION OF PRIORITIES:**

In a timely article (S.F. Examiner, Wednesday, October 17) high police officials were reported as making "the reluctant admission" that "little old ladies aren't safe on the streets of San Francisco day or night".

Violent crime is of growing concern to us all and should be given highest police priority. Some way must be found to release greater numbers of police to foot patrol and other means to combat this menace.

With this in mind Supervisor Molinari has called for public hearings to be held on Wednesday, October 24, 1973, before a Joint Committee of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors Finance and Fire, Safety and Police Committees concerning the adoption of a citation arrest system for certain non-victim crimes. Citation arrest is similar to the system now used for parking and traffic offenses with the exception that the "miscreant" does not have the option of forfeiting bail - he or she must appear in court for disposition of the case.

Under the auspices of Supervisor Molinari the THD were fortunate in having the proposal presented, albeit briefly to us at our October dinner meeting, by Ms. Cathe Smeland, Director of the ACLU Victimless Crime Project. The reaction of the members present was generally sympathetic. Curtis Baldwin pointed out that the Oct. 24 hearing would probably be our only opportunity to present our position on this matter and after some fumbling about we came up with a resolution supporting in principle the citation arrest system. This resolution will be forwarded to the Joint Committee of the Supervisors.

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**ENVIRONMENT REPORT**

BETTY RADER, our hard working Environmental Chairman, submits this report.

There are two new proposed developments on the waterfront. The four blocks between Sansome, Battery and Front; Greenwich, Filbert, and Union called the Greenwich Center, and Mastercharge where there is now an onion shed at Broadway, Vallejo and the Embarcadero. These two developments alone will add 4500 people at least to an area where there will not be enough parking or local bus service. They are not near BART, they do not conform to the Urban Design Plan and the Mastercharge project is on port land -- that is, public land which belongs to you and me which could be used as a park near such densely populated areas as Telegraph Hill and Chinatown. These developments will cause additional bay water pollution, air pollution and extreme traffic turmoil in the constricted traffic corridors to Marin County. Sansome and Battery are already congested at peak hours. The Planning Commission listened politely to your Environmental Chairman, and then voted unanimously to accept the Environmental Impact Report as adequate and to give the developer the conditional uses and a bulk variance.\*

As to noise pollution - noise is considered "noisy", according to the number of complaints received - not according to whether it makes you deaf. To complain about jet airplanes and helicopters you can telephone 589-3100. The City has had a noise law since September 10, 1972 and the City still does not have one sound level meter to enforce this law. I have sent in your noise complaints to the appropriate agencies. I need more written complaints, ideally a letter with a carbon copy but even a note on a scratch pad works. I also need to know if you are or are not getting any results. When the pile drivers start along the waterfront we may have to buy a sound level meter ourselves and march on City Hall."

\*Editor's Note: If Environmental Impact Reports are to be written by the proposed developers who have nothing better than a prejudiced point of view, and if they are to be accepted by the City authorities who seem to be anxious not to slow down development, then one must question the usefulness of an EIR.

*George Ansharian's*

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VOTING RECORD OF INCUMBENT  
SUPERVISORS ON ENVIRONMENTAL  
ISSUES

	THD Position	Barbagelata	Chinn	Feinstein	Tamaras	Von Beroldingen	Date of Vote
1. Give up public street for TransAmerica Corporation	No	-	-	-	Yes	Yes	7-69
2. Reduce waterfront height limits near Ferry Bldg.	Yes	-	-	Yes	No	No	2-71
3. Urge State Legislature to override Governmor's veto of bill.	Yes	No	-	Yes	No	-	2-71
4. Delete opposition to second deck Golden Gate Bridge.	No	Yes	-	No	Yes	No	----
5. Narrow Market St. to four lanes and two bike lanes	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	No	Yes	6-72
6. Weaken Landmarks Ordinance by reducing demolition waiting time to three months.	No	Yes	-	No	Yes	Yes	7-72
7. Encourage downtown auto traffic by enlarging Sutter-Stockton garage.	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10-72
8. Designate as Landmarks: Sherman House, Flag House	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	9-72
9. Support State Proposition 20 (california Coastline Init.)	Yes	No	-	Yes	No	No	10-72
10. Give priority on city streets to MUNI and other transit vehs.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3-73
11. Facilitate public transit by creating streetcar right of way on Judah Street.	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	No	No	5-73
12. Reduce neighborhood height and bulk limits along Upper Market	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	6-73
13. Reduce neighborhood height and bulk limits in Sunset & Richmond	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	6-73
14. Reduce neighborhood height and bulk limits in Pacific Heights	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	6-73
15. Approve airport expansion "go-ahead".	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	8-73
16. Grant easement for use of street for Golden Gateway	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	6-73
17. Reduce number of proposed Marin Ferries	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	7-73

Comparison

Agreed with THD position	4	4	13	3	5
Disagreed with THD position	10	6	3	14	11

this is not intended to be an endorsement of any candidate.

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DOYLE DRIVE  
OLD FREEWAY FIGHT REVIVED - WITH A VENGEANCE!


On Wednesday, October 18, at the Fireman's Fund Auditorium, the State Department of Transportation held what they had cynically announced in the Press as a "Public Hearing to Insure Maximum Public Input" relative to their proposal to widen Doyle Drive from 6 to 8 lanes. In a display of outrageous arrogance and extremely bad faith they had already, that very same day, voted to appropriate funds for the first phase of the Doyle Drive eight-lane conversion.

At the "Public Hearing", San Franciscans, legislators and citizens alike were unanimous and highly vocal in expressing their strong opposition to the State's foot-in-the-door freeway proposal - presented in the guise of a "safety improvement". In similar spirit they expressed their overwhelming support of the Official San Francisco proposal for a safe, 6-lane Doyle Drive in which the existing lanes would be widened from 10 to 12 feet with a median barrier to prevent head-on collisions. It came out clearly at the "hearing" that the State's insistence on building this 1-1/4 mile stretch to "Freeway Standard" was merely a part of its long-continuing and relentless drive to ram the Golden Gate Freeway, Park Presidio and 19th Ave. Freeway, Panhandle, and other freeways down the unwilling throat of San Francisco. They will not hear the last of this.

In view of the serious world-wide pollution crisis, it is disgraceful and downright criminal for the State Department of Transportation to consider any plan to further accommodate the circulation of the world's Number One Polluter - the private passenger automobile. MASS TRANSIT SOLUTIONS MUST BE GIVEN TOP PRIORITY.

**ADD YOUR PROTEST!** Write (Before Oct. 31) to the District Director of Transportation, Box 3366, Rincon Annex, S.F. 94119, copies to the Secretary of the Army, Washington, D.C. and to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Hotel Claremont, Berkeley, California 94705.

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*I want to take this opportunity to thank the many Hill Dwellers, who, because of my temporary incapacity, offered their help in typing, editing and assembling this Bulletin. Without their cooperation the task would have been an impossible one. Thanks to all who volunteered.*

*Sincerely,  
Annex Evans.*

# Bulletin

Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Association, "Tel Hi" as we're known by our friends, is the oldest settlement house in San Francisco. Not inappropriately, we are often confused with The Dwellers. In fact, our goals - the improvement of living conditions in the Telegraph Hill area - are very similar.

Perhaps you are unfamiliar with us. Located at 660 Lombard St. (between Mason and Powell) we, like you, are in the heart of one of the most fascinating areas of San Francisco. At any moment at Tel Hi, you are likely to find representatives of every age, major ethnic group, and economic bracket. Listen to our sounds on a typical morning: the happy voices of children from our two nursery schools (one co-operative and one for low income families); from upstairs, the mixed accents of Chinese, Italian and Spanish, of foreigners struggling to master English as a second language; down the hall, volunteer doctors conferring with low income patients in our medical clinic; mingled with all this will soon be the clink of knives and forks, the music of a daily hot lunch program for Senior Citizens of the area. Afternoon means that school is out and the kids are here. Basketball leagues, dance classes, teen clubs, field trips, cooking and typing classes and other varied events. In the evenings, many adults return for our arts workshops or to help as volunteer tutors. It's a long and busy day, and at the end, the building rests.

But outside our building also, we reach out to tackle community problems at their roots. We take great pride in the fact that this summer, youth from this area were involved in fewer police incidents than in any year in recent history.

Although we are supported by the United Bay Area Crusade, we simply cannot continue to meet the challenge presented to us without additional funds. With rising costs and decreasing financial support, we will soon be forced to cut back our services. We can't stop crime in the streets; we can't guarantee that local youth will accept the alternatives we offer; we can't cure all the patients who come to our clinic. We can take constructive steps toward the solution of all these problems. We can if you can. Won't you please help us? A donation to Tel Hi is a commitment to growth, a statement of belief in and support for your neighborhood and your neighbors.

All donations are tax deductible and will be most appreciated. Please send to Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Association, 660 Lombard St. S.F. 94133.

And come by and see us.



315 Chestnut Street  
San Francisco 94133, Calif.

RETURN REQUESTED



TELEGRAPH DWELLERS - SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, JULY 10, 1973 AT 7:30 P. M.

THE OLD SPAGHETTI FACTORY - 478 GREEN STREET

A CRISIS

Born in battle, The Telegraph Hill Dwellers have taken the lead in city-wide moves to save the waterfront. This time San Francisco is confronted with a WATERFRONT WALL - Phase III of the Golden Gateway: 4 huge towers - 3 as high as the base of Coit Tower - one a full block wide fronting on Broadway, 80 town houses, 3300 more people packed into Golden Gateway North!

THE PLANNING COMMISSION SAID (Jan 1973) that the blockage of existing views and reduction of space between the highrise buildings in the downtown area and the low-rise residential buildings on Telegraph Hill are significant adverse environmental effects and asked the developers to prepare a suitable alternative plan.

THE DEVELOPERS SAY that the project as planned is the only suitable alternative! and that the project does not have to conform either to the city's Height and Bulk ordinance (1972) or to the California Environmental Quality Act (1970).

THE TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS (April 10, 1973) Resolved to oppose this development, welcomed the formation of an Ad Hoc committee to oppose it and authorized its Board of Directors to join in an effort to achieve a desirable alternative to the design of Golden Gateway Phase III.

CONSEQUENTLY (April 11, 1973) an Ad Hoc committee was formed under the name: Citizens for Responsible City Development. Finally some impetus from forces outside Telegraph Hill started the ball rolling! The Law Firm of Heller, Ehrman, White and McAuliffe was engaged after assuring the committee that they did indeed have a case.

THE ATTORNEYS SAY: "The project does not comply with the California Environmental Quality Act".

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (April 19, 1973) voted to make available the sum of \$1000 from the Legal Fund to help defray legal costs.

A LAWSUIT: On April 30, 1973 the committee filed suit to stop this Waterfront Wall as it is presently planned.

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SAID: (May, 1973) "We can show we aren't party to this project until the question of its legality is settled", and so they unanimously voted to postpone authorizing selling a public utility easement to the developers.

WE AGREE: This land must be developed, but not as a solid highrise wall on the waterfront. Other developers at the base of the Hill are building projects under a 40 and 80 foot height limit at a land cost of more than twice that of the publicly subsidized Golden Gateway. This development can scale down its buildings and still make a profit.


THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LAWSUIT IS IMMENSE. Judgment in our favor would set a precedent for the review of development projects throughout the State of California. On the Waterfront (at least one 60 story tower is planned opposite the Ferry Bldg.) and elsewhere in SF the now unrestrained Redevelopment Agency would be forced to provide a thorough environmental evaluation of its projects before a building permit could be issued. Crisis confrontations and lawsuits would no longer be the last resort of an outraged public.

YOU CAN HELP protect the Waterfront and the future of San Francisco. SEND A CHEQUE or LEND YOUR MORAL WEIGHT to the suit by joining the Committee for Responsible City Development (no financial liability is involved!). The committee needs the names of all who will support their court action. Write to:

Anna Quillen, Treasurer  
273 Green Street  
San Francisco, CA 94133

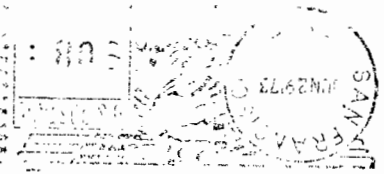
Once again we must take the lead. We could make a difference. We count on your vision and devotion in this emergency. IF YOU AGREE WITH US, respond to this call.

(SEE OTHER SIDE)

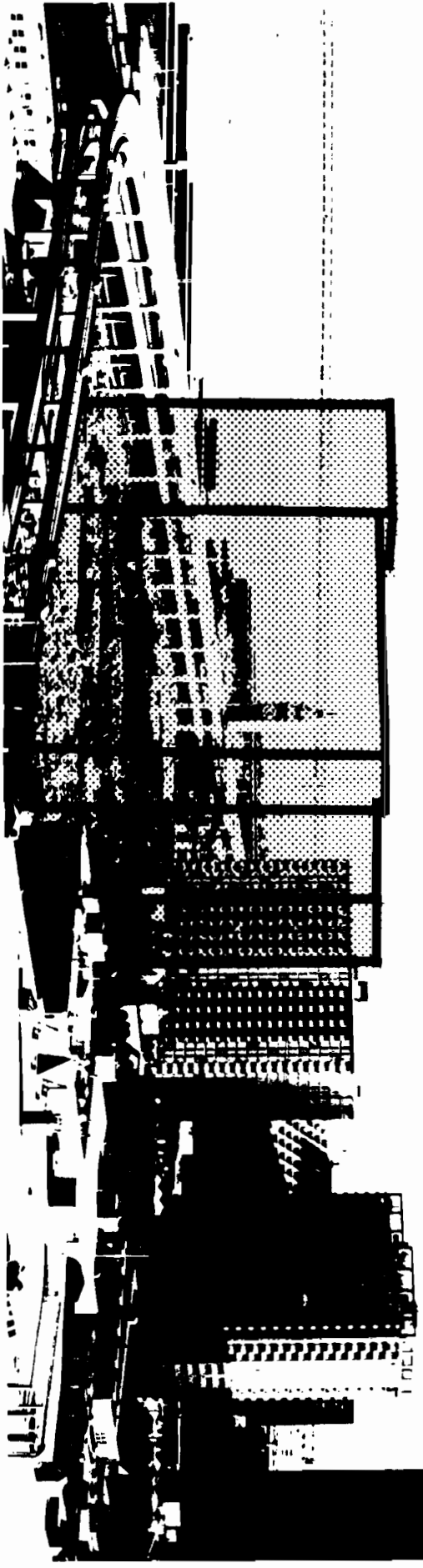
Sincerely,  
The Telegraph Hill Dwellers  
  
John W. Holmes, President



MR. & MRS. KENNETH EVERS  
255 CHESTNUT ST.  
SAN FRANCISCO 11, CALIF.



# CRISIS: A WATERFRONT WALL



TELEGRAPH DWELLERS - SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, JULY 10, 1973 AT 7:30 P. M.

THE OLD SPAGHETTI FACTORY - 478 GREEN STREET